



PRINCETON

Worcester County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Physically the most distinguishing feature of Princeton is Mt. Wachusett, the highest mountain in Massachusetts east of the Connecticut River. From Princeton, residents look down on Boston, fifty miles away, both literally and figuratively. The town is very small, a community which desires, at least on the part of many of its residents, to resist any urbanization and to maintain its rural character as much as possible. It is commonly said that new residents, once they have settled down, feel that Princeton should shut the town gates and restrict its population. It is difficult to categorize all the factors which bring about a sense of proprietorship in newcomers as well as in those who have lived in town all their lives, but residents affirm without fear of exaggeration that those who come seem to feel they have discovered the place.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Central Massachusetts, bordered by Leominster on the northeast, Sterling on the east, Holden on the southeast, Rutland on the southwest, and Hubbardston and Westminister on the northwest. Princeton is about 14 miles south of Fitchburg, 15 miles north of Worcester, 47 miles west of Boston, and 189 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 35.85 sq. miles

Land Area: 35.45 sq. miles

Population: 3,189

Density: 90 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Barre Falls Dam Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.0°F

Normal temperature in July.....67.2°F

Normal annual precipitation.....42.1"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Wachusett Mt., Sterling, Fitchburg, Gardner

Regional Planning Agency

Central Massachusetts

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Worcester



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 464-2100

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen
Executive Secretary
Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1771

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	2,130		
Democrats	404	19.0	%
Republicans	482	22.6	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	1,244	58.4	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Princeton town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	3,353	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	3,353	100.0
Male.....	1,693	50.5	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	49	1.5
Female.....	1,660	49.5	Mexican.....	13	0.4
Under 5 years.....	191	5.7	Puerto Rican.....	11	0.3
5 to 9 years.....	298	8.9	Cuban.....	3	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	306	9.1	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	22	0.7
15 to 19 years.....	253	7.5	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	3,304	98.5
20 to 24 years.....	83	2.5	White alone.....	3,227	96.2
25 to 34 years.....	265	7.9	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	668	19.9	Total population.....	3,353	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	703	21.0	In households.....	3,352	100.0
55 to 59 years.....	191	5.7	Householder.....	1,166	34.8
60 to 64 years.....	110	3.3	Spouse.....	871	26.0
65 to 74 years.....	169	5.0	Child.....	1,134	33.8
75 to 84 years.....	89	2.7	Own child under 18 years.....	929	27.7
85 years and over.....	28	0.8	Other relatives.....	87	2.6
Median age (years).....	40.1	(X)	Under 18 years.....	32	1.0
18 years and over.....	2,383	71.1	Nonrelatives.....	94	2.8
Male.....	1,175	35.0	Unmarried partner.....	46	1.4
Female.....	1,208	36.0	In group quarters.....	1	-
21 years and over.....	2,285	68.1	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	342	10.2	Noninstitutionalized population.....	1	-
65 years and over.....	286	8.5	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	138	4.1	Total households.....	1,166	100.0
Female.....	148	4.4	Family households (families).....	960	82.3
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	488	41.9
One race.....	3,318	99.0	Married-couple family.....	871	74.7
White.....	3,244	96.7	With own children under 18 years.....	443	38.0
Black or African American.....	10	0.3	Female householder, no husband present.....	60	5.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	11	0.3	With own children under 18 years.....	33	2.8
Asian.....	32	1.0	Nonfamily households.....	206	17.7
Asian Indian.....	2	0.1	Householder living alone.....	157	13.5
Chinese.....	8	0.2	Householder 65 years and over.....	58	5.0
Filipino.....	4	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	509	43.7
Japanese.....	-	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	204	17.5
Korean.....	7	0.2	Average household size.....	2.87	(X)
Vietnamese.....	2	0.1	Average family size.....	3.18	(X)
Other Asian ¹	9	0.3	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	1,196	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	1,166	97.5
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	30	2.5
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	11	0.9
Some other race.....	21	0.6	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.7	(X)
Two or more races.....	35	1.0	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	1.0	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	1,166	100.0
White.....	3,275	97.7	Owner-occupied housing units.....	1,062	91.1
Black or African American.....	16	0.5	Renter-occupied housing units.....	104	8.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	26	0.8	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.94	(X)
Asian.....	42	1.3	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.21	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	3	0.1			
Some other race.....	28	0.8			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	0
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Located in the Worcester area, which has three major cross-state highways: the Worcester Turnpike (Route 9), Route 20, and the Massachusetts Turnpike. I-495 borders to the east, I-190 links to the Fitchburg-Leominster area, I-84 and I-395 connect to Connecticut and points south. The region is well connected by rail and highway to the ports, airports, and intermodal facilities of Boston and Providence.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 31, 62, and 140, which links up with cross-State Route 2 in neighboring Westminster.

Rail

Commuter rail service to North Station, Boston, is available in the neighboring town of Leominster. Travel time from North Leominster Station: 78-87 minutes; 60 MBTA parking spaces. The Providence and Worcester Railroad provides freight rail service to Princeton. Contact number: (978) 755-4000 ext. 310

Bus

Princeton is a member of the Worcester Regional Transit Authority.

Other

The Worcester Municipal Airport, a Primary Commercial (PR) facility with scheduled passenger service, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 5,500' and 6,999' long. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.